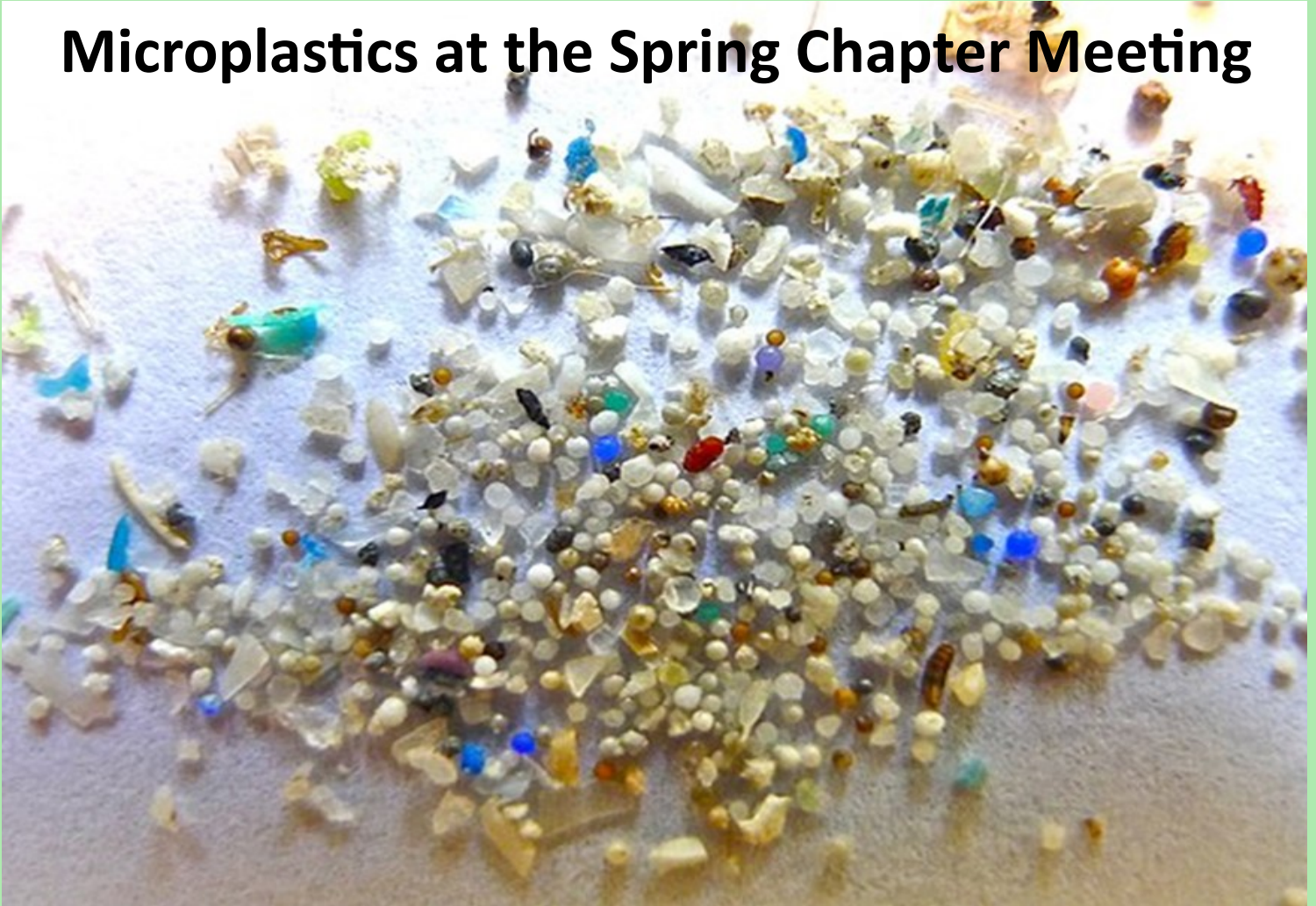


# GeoNews– Spring 2024

Newsletter of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, Carolinas Chapter  
2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2020 AEG Chapter of the Year

## Microplastics at the Spring Chapter Meeting

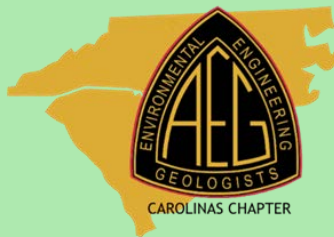


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### SAVE THE DATES

- Geological Field Course  
Moncure, NC  
April 6, 2024
- AEG Dinner  
Meeting  
Clouds Brewing  
Raleigh, NC  
April 11, 2024



**GEONEWS SPRING 2024**

**Issue Date: March 28, 2024**

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**Thanks to our Sponsors!**

GeoNews is a publication of the Carolinas Chapter of AEG. There are four issues per year, with deadlines and issue publication dates listed below. We publish news of the profession, announcements, student member news, technical articles, and job openings.

**Deadlines for submittal to AE Carolinas GeoNews**

(can be flexible depending on events)

Spring—deadline March 1, issue date March 21

Summer—deadline June 1, issue date June 21

Fall—deadline Sept 1, issue date Sept 21

Winter—deadline Dec 1, issue date Dec 21

**Deadlines for submittal for the National AEG News:**

March issue—January 15

June issue—April 15

September issue—July 15

December issue—October 15

**AEG Carolinas Chapter**

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Treasurer	Walt Plekan, P.G. <a href="mailto:Walt.plekan@aecom.com">Walt.plekan@aecom.com</a>
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<b>AEG Carolinas Chapter Website</b>	<a href="http://www.aegcarolinas.org">www.aegcarolinas.org</a>
<b>AEG National Website</b>	<a href="http://www.aegweb.org">www.aegweb.org</a>

Cover: Picture of microplastics (source: [CC-BY-SA-2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/))

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## Message From the Chair

*By Jennifer Thomas, P.G., AEG Carolinas Chapter Chair*

### Greetings Carolinas Chapter!

Spring is here and my world is full of colorful flowers and new leaves coming out as everything turns green. The warming temperatures make me want to spend more time outdoors. Good thing there's a field course this month in the center of North Carolina. There's even more going on in the area with our Raleigh meeting. Did you know that it's the last event ever at Clouds Brewing? They are closing to the public on April 7, but will be hosting our private event as planned.

If you missed the Charlotte meeting, we had a tasty dinner, and a substantial number of people came out. Read all about it and have a look at the pictures in this issue.

Do you live in South Carolina? We like to plan activities for our members all over the Carolinas. However, most of our members live in North Carolina. If you'd like to request a South Carolina meeting so you can skip the travel for once, let me know at [jen@jennotecllc.com](mailto:jen@jennotecllc.com). Better yet, help us plan something near you!

**We need your help!** As I said, we like to do lots of stuff in lots of places throughout the year. But we can't put on all these wonderful events without our dedicated board members and other volunteers. We have some open positions and anticipate more soon. I hope that some of you are reading this and are open to helping us out, even if you aren't able to take on a large time commitment. This issue contains more information about what the board positions entail and what we need help with most right now.



Jennifer Thomas, P.G.

[jen@jennotecllc.com](mailto:jen@jennotecllc.com)

AEG Carolinas Chapter Chair



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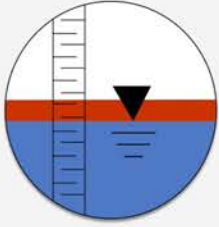
## AEG Carolinas Chapter Q4 2023 Treasurer's Report

*By Walt Plekan, P.G., Carolinas Chapter Treasurer*



### AEG Carolinas Section Treasurer's Report Oct 1 through Dec 31, 2023

<b>BALANCE As Of Oct 1, 2023</b>		
Checking Account		\$ 4,068.33
Savings Account		\$ 13,138.12
		<b><u>\$ 17,206.45</u></b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Chapter Dues</b>		\$ 690.00
<b>Meetings</b>		
September Meeting - Asheville		\$ 346.00
October Meeting - Greensboro		\$ 451.00
Field Trips		\$ 395.00
<b>Misc</b>		
Sponsor Payments		\$ -
GeoNews Advertising		\$ -
<b>Interest</b>		
Interest from savings		\$ 4.59
<b>SUBTOTAL - INCOME</b>		<b>\$ 1,886.59</b>
<hr/>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>		
September Meeting - Asheville Food		\$ 869.05
Visiting Professional Reimbursement		\$ 1,038.52
Greensboro Meeting -		\$ 2,309.50
<b>Banking Fees</b>		
Card Reader Fees		\$ 63.79
Paypal Field Trips		\$ -
Paypal Sponsors		\$ -
Paypal GeoNews		\$ -
<b>Additional Expenses</b>		
Carolinas Scholarship		\$ 3,000.00
Webhosting and Email Service		
Printing and Postage		\$ 270.45
<b>SUBTOTAL - EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$7,551.31</b>
<hr/>		
<b>BALANCE As Of Dec 31, 2023</b>		
Checking Account		\$ 1,329.02
Savings Account		\$ 10,212.71
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$ 11,541.73</u></b>



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## Winter Chapter Meeting in Charlotte

*By Jen Thomas, P.G., Carolinas Chapter Chair*

The Carolinas Chapter held our winter meeting on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in Charlotte. Chapter chair Jen Thomas discovered this brewery a few years ago, when we held an in-person board meeting in their beer garden. When Jen found out they had a private room, we decided we'd try it for our chapter meeting in 2022 to see how it compared to the U.S. National Whitewater Center, where we'd held previous meetings. We liked Olde Meck so much that it's now our home for chapter meetings in Charlotte. This year, we had 54 preregister for the meeting and 50 showed up, which includes 22 students and faculty members Jake Armour and Amanda Stone from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The no-shows numbered slightly less than those who didn't preregister, and fortunately, Olde Meck could handle the extras. This is not always the case for our meeting venues, so it's important to preregister so that we know we have enough food for all in attendance. You can cancel your reservation up to three days before the meeting.



*(Continued on Page 7)*



## Winter Chapter Meeting in Charlotte (Continued from Page 6)

As usual, we started off with a social hour. For years, we held our social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. However, people often leave work and come right to the venue before 6:00, so we moved the starting time back to 5:30, so technically, it's a social *hour and a half*. No one has complained about having an extra half hour to socialize, and our sponsors probably enjoy the longer time to mingle with potential clients. Olde Meck served hors d'oeuvres during the social hour, and the excellent dinner buffet began at 7:00. As usual we had to push people to stop socializing over beers and socialize over dinner instead. See the photos we took during the social hour.



(Continued on Page 8)

## Winter Chapter Meeting in Charlotte (Continued from Page 7)

Our speaker was the 2023-24 Jahns Lecturer, Cynthia Palomares, who spoke about ways climate change affects infrastructure. Cynthia was the President of AEG in 2020-21, during Covid times, so her travel was very limited and she didn't come to the Carolinas. Typically, our chapter hosts the Jahns Lecturer and AEG President each year, and each speaks at one of our chapter meetings and visits universities in North and South Carolina to make presentations to students about AEG and geology careers. This year, chapter Vice Chair Jonathan Gerst organized Cynthia's visit, and she made presentations at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, Clemson University, East Tennessee State University, and UNC Charlotte, prior to her dinner presentation at Olde Meck. We thank Cynthia for coming to our chapter and presenting a slightly different, somewhat non-geological perspective on a theme we'll hear about for the rest of our lives.



(Continued on Page 9)



Winter Chapter Meeting in Charlotte (Continued from Page 8)



## Are *YOU* Interested in Volunteering for on the AEG Carolinas Chapter Board?

Your AEG Carolinas Chapter is in need of volunteers!! Please see the list of chapter role openings and what is involved with each role on the next few pages. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to fill one of these roles, please reach out to the chapter chair, Jen Thomas, at [jen@jentecllc.com](mailto:jen@jentecllc.com).

**Chapter Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of all meetings, proceedings and actions of the Board and any committees thereof. The minutes of meetings shall include the time and place that the meeting was held; whether the meeting was regular or special and, if special, how it was authorized; the notice given, if any; the names of the persons present at the meeting; and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall, on the written request of any member, furnish to that member a copy of meetings minutes. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and any committees thereof. The Secretary shall also have such other powers and duties as may from time to time be prescribed to him or her by the Board or the Chapter Chair. The term of office for the Chapter Secretary shall be one year with the option to run for additional one-year terms.



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(Continued on Page 11)



## Are *YOU* Interested in Volunteering for on the AEG Carolinas Chapter Board? (Continued from Page 10)

**Sponsor Chair:** Beginning at the first of each year, the Sponsor Chair will contact existing Chapter Sponsors to request that they renew their sponsorship, and will reach out to potential new Chapter sponsors to bring them on-board as Chapter sponsors. The chair will coordinate with the Treasurer to populate and maintain a list by sponsor name, level of sponsorship, amount paid, and contact information for the sponsor. Ideally, this individual should be a professional who has been practicing in the region for some time and has contacts with drillers, labs, and other companies that provide support to geoscience professionals.

**Field Course Committee Chair:** This position involves working with the Chapter Board to schedule Chapter field courses with a goal of two per year, selecting and securing the field course topic, location, and leader, and working with the Chapter Secretary to send out announcements of each field course.

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">C C I</p> <p>P: (910) 484-7000</p> <p>281 Lane Parkway Salisbury, NC 28146</p> <p>3434 Black &amp; Decker Road Hope Mills, NC 28346</p> <p>24-Hour ER Phone 1-888-624-6555</p>	<p>Abatement</p> <p>Demolition</p> <p>Emergency Response/Disaster Response</p> <p>Contaminated Soil Remediation</p> <p>Industrial Services</p> <p>Industrial Blasting</p> <p>Geoseal Vapor Barrier Installation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Dedicated to our client’s success”</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>Jeremy A. DeVore, PG Industrial Services Account Mgr</p> <p>131 Mariposa Rd Stanley, NC 28164</p> <p>jdevore@wrenvironmental.com Phone: 800-499-1682   Cell: 336-706-9632</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">www.wrenvironmental.com</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 60%; background-color: #1a3d4d; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Natalia Besswanger SE Account Manager</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">  <p>nataliab@buckeye-elm.com 803-404-9146</p> <p>1333 Research Rd Columbus, OH 43230</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: #c00000;">Safe   Experienced   Trusted Environmental Solutions</p> </div> </div>
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(Continued on Page 12)



## Are *YOU* Interested in Volunteering for on the AEG Carolinas Chapter Board? (Continued from Page 11)

**Student Liaison Committee Chair:** This individual's responsibility includes the following:

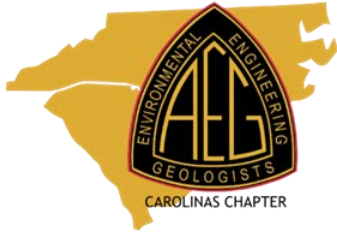
- Coordinating the Carolinas Chapter's Visiting Professionals program in which geoprosessionals visit colleges/universities to speak to geoscience majors regarding careers in geology. The Student Liaison contacts potential presenters, typically three to four, with professional practice experience in varied areas of geology (i.e.: environmental, geotechnical, regulatory, and governmental), for each visit to present at the colleges/universities, and coordinates these visits with the faculty contact at the schools. Typically, around four or five Visiting Professionals visits are undertaken each year. The Carolinas Chapter maintains a list of potential Visiting Professional speakers and of the faculty contacts at each college/university.
- The Student Liaison plans the college/university tours for AEG visitors to the Carolinas Chapter. These visitors include one visit each year by the current AEG President and one each year by the current AEG/GSA Jahns Lecturer. Typically, the AEG President and Jahns Lecturer speak at approximately four to five venues during each visit to the Carolinas. AEG Carolinas maintains a list of school contacts for the Student Liaison to use for these purposes.

*The Student Liaison role may be better served by two people or a small committee.*

**Other volunteers** - For those who would like to be of assistance to the Carolinas Chapter but are not able to commit a lot of time, the Chapter also always needs volunteers to assist with the following:

- Chapter Meeting Planning and Coordination – this involves working with the Chapter Board to schedule Chapter meetings (usually one meeting per quarter), selecting and securing a venue for each meeting, assisting the Board in selecting a speaker for each meeting, and working with the Chapter Secretary to send out announcements of each meeting.
- Writing content for the newsletter is a way for someone with limited time to help.





**Spring Dinner Meeting**  
**The Carolinas Chapter of the**  
**Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists**  
**Presents Guest Speaker:**



**Kim Nimmer**

Senior Policy Analyst, City of Raleigh

**What's the Big Deal with Small Plastic?**

**Meeting Details**

- Place:** The patio at Clouds Brewing, 126 N. West Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
- Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2024; *we will have the restaurant to ourselves– Clouds Brewing will close April 7th and our chapter meeting is their last event*
- Time:** 5:30 PM socializing begins, 7:00 buffet dinner, 8:00 Kim's talk
- Cost:** AEG members \$35; non-members \$50; public-sector employees and teachers \$20. **Students free w/ college ID. Registration will be \$5 more at the door.**

**Reservations:** Please make reservations and prepay by 6:00 PM on Monday, April 8, 2024 at <http://aegcarolinas.org/news/>. *Registration will be \$5 more at the door.*

**Students** - register by April 6, 2024 online for \$1 or by emailing meeting planner Rick Kolb at [rick.kolb1@gmail.com](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail.com)

**Continuing Education:** The NCBLG has preapproved AEG Carolinas to offer 1 CE credit for our chapter meetings.

### Kim's Abstract

#### What's the Big Deal with Small Plastic?

So, we had USTs in the 1990's, chlorinated solvents and vapor intrusion in the 2000's, and PFAS in this decade. What's the next big topic in environmental consulting, the next "contaminant of emerging concern" that we will deal with? Some of you are old enough to remember the movie, *The Graduate*, during which Dustin Hoffman was pulled aside at his graduation party by one of his dad's friends, who told him the future in one word --- "Plastics." Well, here we are, over 50 years later and plastics are *everywhere* - in the ocean, in the food chain, in our blood stream; yes, everywhere. Is this a big deal?



*ITRC MP Figure 1-4: Various Shapes, sizes, and colors of microplastic particles; Source: Martindale et al, 2020*

Plastics have become pervasive in modern life and are now used in a wide range of commercial and industrial applications. Microplastics may be intentionally produced for specific purposes and products or may result from the degradation and fragmentation of larger plastics. Regardless of their origin, microplastics are now ubiquitous in our environment and are one of the biggest emerging threats to the global environmental community.

Because of their small size and pervasiveness in the environment, microplastics, along with any other contaminants that are adsorbed to the microplastics or intentionally added through the manufacturing process, may be consumed by humans and other organisms. Microplastics have been reported in human blood, in the deep lung, and in placenta. The science surrounding microplastics, their potential health effects, and knowledge of their fate and transport are very new and developing, with research articles being published at a rapidly accelerating rate. Even techniques and best practices for sample collection and analysis of these tiny particles and fibers are still evolving. Kim will highlight information from the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council's (ITRC) Microplastics Guidance Document, which was released online in February 2023. The guidance provides the reader with information on microplastics and the state of the applied science without having to go to the scientific literature.

*(Continued on Page 15)*



### Kim's Biography

Kim Nimmer is a Senior Policy Analyst with the City of Raleigh and was co-leader of the ITRC's Microplastics Team that produced the ITRC Microplastics Guidance Document. She currently co-leads a group on ITRC's Contaminants of Emerging Concern Team. Kim previously spent 20 years with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Resources (DWR), where she served as DWR's first Emerging Compounds Coordinator. She also served as the Interbasin Transfer Program Coordinator and managed the state's 319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect and restore waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution. Kim has worked in private consulting, the nonprofit sector, and Wisconsin state government, working on stream-restoration projects, site assessments for Superfund and Brownfields sites, and the development of state technical standards for soil- and water-conservation practices. Kim holds a B.S. in Geology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.S. in Water Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin at Madison .



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## Not Receiving AEG Carolinas Chapter Email Communications?

The AEG Carolinas Chapter Board has become aware that some chapter members have not been receiving email communications. If you are one of these members, please check your SPAM folder for any missed communications and add AEG ([communications@aegcarolinas.org](mailto:communications@aegcarolinas.org)) to your list of important contacts. If these do not help and you are still not receiving chapter emails, please contact the linked email address above and let us know!

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**Andrew Harris**

[aharris@waypointanalytical.com](mailto:aharris@waypointanalytical.com)

Regional Account Manager (Eastern NC)



***Carolina Board Meeting Minutes 2-27-2024, 4:30pm— Microsoft Teams Meeting***  
*By Laura Elliot, P.G. and Jen Thomas, P.G.—Carolinas Chapter Secretary and Chair*

**AEG CAROLINAS CHAPTER- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order via Microsoft Teams 4:30PM
2. Roll Call — Laura Elliot, Jen Thomas, Jonathan Gerst, Paul Weaver, Meredith Ambrose, Adam Phillips, Rick Kolb
3. Carolinas Chapter Finances— Walt’s report shared via Jen
  - Review of current chapter finances show:
  - Checking \$4,787.62 and Savings \$10,212.99
  - We spend most money on Jahns lecturer expenses, the scholarship fund, and meetings.
4. Upcoming Meetings
  - Raleigh— Rick. Kim Nimmer, City of Raleigh, will present on microplastic contamination at Clouds Brewing on Thursday, April 11
  - Wilmington meeting— brewery options, speaker, date needed; Adam sent some venue options. Edward Teach Brewery with Food Trucks would be easy with outside patio. June?
  - Possible SC meeting? The guy at the SC survey I talked to last year hasn’t replied to my last two emails about a spring chapter meeting on Friday night/field trip on Saturday in the SC piedmont
  - Asheville— Per Rick Kolb, Rob Young is a WCU professor who can speak on coastal issues/ sea level rise. This doesn’t need to be planned yet but I’m going to keep it on the radar. Jen will plan this meeting later in the year
  - I’ve asked AEG President Sarah Kalika about visiting for a meeting next fall. There will be a school tour with that as well. Greensboro end of October. Sarah will stay with Paul, Paul will organize at Kau?



(Continued on Page 19)

*Carolina Board Meeting Minutes 2-27-2024, 4:30pm (Continued from Page 18)*

5. Jonathan: hiring an admin to help with work load so everything isn't on Rick– help prevent volunteer burnout.
- What other changes can be made to provide increased value to membership while also boosting volunteer/member retention?
  - Is there a way to hire an admin to help our organization keep up with things as we have a hard time gaining volunteers (e.g. listserv, organize visiting professional, sponsors, other needs)
  - Would an email blast + a free beer be a good way to communicate the need for volunteers?
6. Paul: should we spend funds to send chair or vice chair to annual meeting?
- Suggestion to use a max of \$1,000/year but wait until we can budget more properly with more sponsors and see our annual income
7. Field Courses– Rick
- Everything good with the March 23rd trip in central NC? Yes, we're at 16 right now but expect it will go up closer to the date. More meeting and field course announcements will be sent in March.
  - Fall? Sent a note to Bart Cattanach (NCGS) on 2/26/24 asking if he'd lead another field course this fall.
  - Jonathan suggested that we could have a picnic/social hour scheduled after the field courses to increase attendance—out of pocket cost to attendees.



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(Continued on Page 20)

**Carolina Board Meeting Minutes 2-27-2024, 4:30pm (Continued from Page 19)**

8. Lifetime membership for Phil Bradley (NCGS) for leading field courses? Just annual, not lifetime. We did this once before several years ago. Jen made a motion, Walt seconded. The motion passed
9. Visiting Professionals/Need for Chapter Volunteers
  - Volunteers needed for student liaison and sponsor chair; need members who are willing to step up
10. Member renewals— Meredith and Rick
  - Membership renewals tracking found a glitch in AEG's system and they are working on a fix; still need to get the correct, finalized list to know who to contact
11. GEONews— Meredith and Colleen
  - Rick will do the calendar; field course and chapter meeting discussion in the summer edition; summary article about Charlotte meeting?
12. Solving the problem of meeting software. Assuming Jonathan moves up to chair, he is also an independent consultant and will have the same problems as Jen. Walt and Laura will help with Teams meetings
13. Other business?
14. Brewpub socials—Adam talked to Rick about having one in the Triangle in March and I suggested we wait since we have the field course and chapter meeting in Raleigh in March and April
15. Visiting professionals— summary sent to Jen.
16. Sponsors— summary sent to Jen.

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## Want to Lead a Field Course in the Deep River Piedmont?

By Doug Canavello, Pyramid Geophysics

I am a member of the Piedmont Land Conservancy and we are partnering with Harvey Harmon of the Franklinville/Deep River Folk School this spring and summer as he puts together a series of hikes on the nature of the Deep River. The Conservancy is interested in finding a geologist with specific knowledge of the Deep River Piedmont area (e.g., maybe their thesis area?) that would be able to lead a walk/talk on the geology of the Deep River/Central Piedmont area on Saturday, July 27, 2024. If you are interested, please contact me at [doug@pyramidenvironmental.com](mailto:doug@pyramidenvironmental.com).

	
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## The Carolina Chapter's Visiting Professionals Program

*By Rick Kolb— Former Student Liaison, Carolinas Chapter*

Some of you have heard about or participated in the chapter's Visiting Professionals program. For those of you that have not, this program takes practicing professionals to universities in North Carolina to talk to geology students about careers in environmental geology, engineering geology, and geology in the public sector. In general, students don't hear about these kinds of jobs because most college faculty are not aware of what's out there other than jobs for academics.

Most of you have heard about the shortage of students going in to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This is true for geology. The American Geosciences Institute has long published statistics on these shortages (for example, see *Geoscience Currents* No. 93 from October 2014), and as reported by Latitude Media last December, AGI forecasts a shortage of 130,000 geoscientists by 2030, as baby-boomer geologists like me and many of my peers retire from the workforce. This forecast shortage goes back to early this century. I remember hearing about the decreasing sizes of geology majors in colleges back in the aughts and I thought to myself, "How can this be? There are many jobs, now and in the future, as baby boomers retire." I decided to look in to this topic.

I sent an email in 2007 to Dr. Drew Coleman, a professor at UNC Chapel Hill, who at that time was the Undergraduate Advisor for the geology department. I asked why enrollments were down. After a telephone discussion, we decided to do as good geologists do and meet in the field, i.e., at a venue on Franklin Street to discuss this topic, naturally over beers. Drew said what was happening in his department was similar to what was happening everywhere. I remember him saying, "The students' parents are not aware of job opportunities for geologists." So the problem was a lack of information. Practicing geologists needed to get the word out, "There are lots of jobs out there."

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(Continued on Page 23)

## The Carolina Chapter's Visiting Professionals Program

(Continued from Page 22)

Ergo, the Carolinas Section (now chapter) started a program to visit schools and talk about geology careers. I figured I could organize geologists to go to schools and talk about the jobs we have and the opportunities for new graduates. Having been in the industry since 1990, I knew many of the practicing geologists in North Carolina and thought I'd could easily recruit speakers. After all, how many geologists don't love to talk about the work they do, and how they got where they are in their career? The Carolinas Section held our first "Career Day" at UNC Chapel Hill in 2007. I found volunteers to talk about their jobs with the students, taking pizzas and soft drinks as an "incentive" for students to hang around until the end of the day, after all of the labs had ended. Our section expanded these efforts over the years and has made these presentations to geology students at NC State University, Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and at Wilmington and at Asheville, Western Carolina University, Wake Technical Community College (with five fulltime geology faculty that funnel students into NC State), Guilford College (department closed down several years ago), Furman University in Greenville, Radford and Virginia Tech universities in Virginia, and East Tennessee State University. AEG formalized this program as Visiting Professionals a few years later.

After organizing these visits for 9 years, I "persuaded" Brad Worley, a previous presenter, to serve as take the lead on organizing the program. Brad did this until Covid hit, when he suspended the program, and then restarted it in 2022. Brad was too busy at work last year due to lack of staff so the program went on hiatus again. Brad was too busy this year, so I restarted the program for 2024, and so far we've made presentations at NC State and Wake Tech, with presentations to ECU, App State, and UNC Charlotte coming up in April. See the article in this newsletter about our recent visits to NC State and Wake Tech.

I am writing this article to appeal to the geologist in you. It is up to us to help find the employees that will be the future of our profession. Be one of the volunteers in our Visiting Professionals program to go to one of the schools we visit, or go to your alma mater, or go into an earth science class at a high school or middle school in your community and talk about your career and how you became a geologist. Talk to people about what geologists do. Let's do our part to whittle down the shortage of 130,000 geologists that is heading this way.

*(Continued on Page 24)*



## The Carolina Chapter's Visiting Professionals Program

(Continued from Page 23)

Become an advocate for our profession. I don't know how many times I've told people I am a geologist and their first reaction is, "You're the first geologist I've ever met." Tell these people what we do. Things we all use every day started with a geologist – e.g., petroleum products for fuels, lubricants, plastics, and synthetics; metals for autos, construction, and electronics; coal and uranium for electricity. Geologists know this list is almost endless. When I go to elementary school classrooms and talk to students about geology, the first thing I do is tell them to look around the classroom; most everything there had its beginning with a geologist who found the raw material. The non-geologists out there have no idea how valuable our profession is. It's up to us to be our own advocate. If you want to volunteer to be a presenter at a future Visiting Professional "show", let Brad or me know at [geobrad71@gmail.com](mailto:geobrad71@gmail.com) or [rick.kolb1@gmail.com](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail.com).

References:

<https://www.americangeosciences.org/geoscience-currents/explanation-predicted-geoscience-workforce-shortage>

<https://www.latitudemedia.com/news/the-imminent-geologist-shortage>



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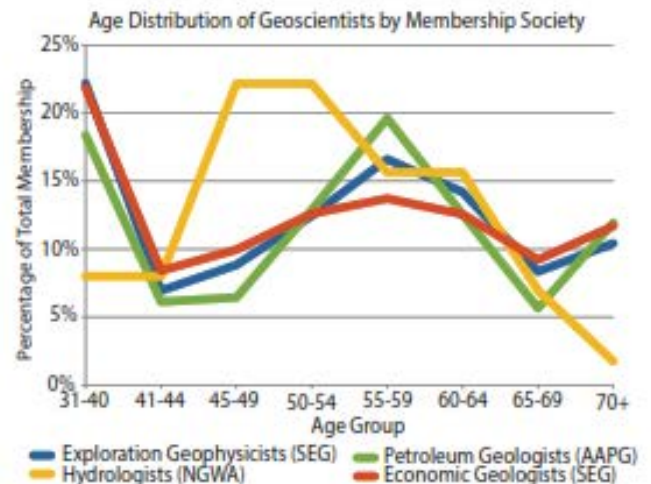
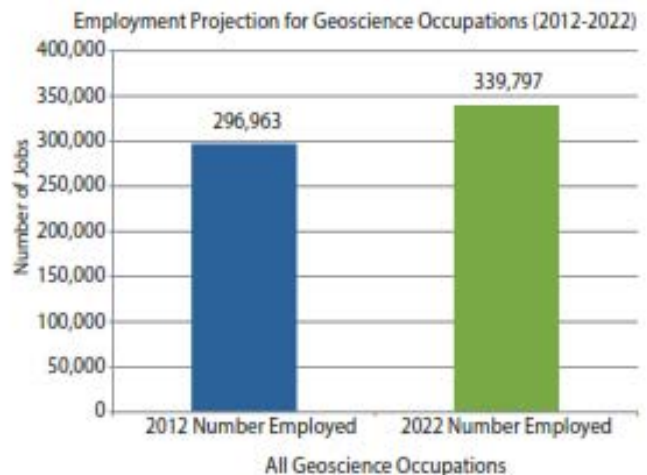
## Explanation of the Predicted Geoscience Workforce Shortage

In the Status of the Workforce Report 2014, a future workforce shortage of 135,000 geoscientists was shown. This Currents expands on the process of determining this estimated workforce shortage.

The data used to look at the future supply and demand of geoscientists come from multiple sources: the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), multiple AGI member societies, and AGI's Directory of Geoscience Departments (DGD). BLS annually publishes their U.S. employment numbers for both industries and occupations. BLS also releases projections of their expected employment numbers 10 years into the future. Due to variations in the definitions of the geoscience workforce, AGI has set a definition of the geosciences and has identified the reported occupations associated with that definition. Multiple AGI member societies shared the age distribution of their membership to help provide an insight into the age demographics of the workforce. For the DGD, AGI asks departments to provide their enrollment and graduation numbers each year when they update their information.

The total number of geoscientists employed in 2012 and projected to be employed in 2022, 296,963 and 339,797 respectively, were calculated from the employment numbers provided by BLS. The total number of future graduates, approximately 51,000, was calculated based on the number of 2013 graduates. Many departments are at capacity, so no increase in new graduates over time was used. The age distributions of the member societies were used to estimate attrition from retirements with a median retirement age of 65. Accounting for the combined projected increase in jobs with the estimated attrition rate along with the estimated number of graduates over the next 10 years, AGI has estimated a shortage of 135,000 geoscientists by 2022.

This estimate is created using multiple assumptions, such as nearly all geoscience graduates find careers in the geoscience workforce (they don't), the expected percentage of the current employment will retire at or near 65, and no major changes occur to the economy that might directly affect the workforce. However, AGI shares this number to make two critical points. The geosciences will continue to be a lucrative field of employment over the next decade. A large number of current geoscientists are reaching retirement, which could lead to a major loss of skills and knowledge from the future workforce.



- Carolyn E. Wilson



## Visiting Professionals Visits to NC State and Wake Tech

*By Rick Kolb— Former Student Liaison, Carolinas Chapter*

The Carolinas Chapter resumed our Visiting Professionals visits this year after a hiatus last year due to Student Liaison Brad Worley's work schedule. Brad was still too busy this year, and since I didn't want to skip our visits two years in a row, I organized presentations at NC State University and Wake Tech, with presentations coming up in April at East Carolina University, Appalachian State University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Our presenters at NC State on March 5<sup>th</sup> were engineering geologist Meredith Ambrose with F&R, who is also our Newsletter Co-editor and Membership Chair; environmental geologist John Sherill of Synterra in Cary; and environmental geologist Josh Hanks of the Hazardous Waste Section of NCDEQ. Attending our presentation were about 15 students of the undergraduate geology club (I didn't realize the grad students had their own club) and AEG Student Chapter advisor Del Bohnenstiehl. We brought along four Papa John's pizzas and soft drinks since our presentation was at dinnertime. The students were engaged and asked many questions, as each presenter talked about what they do at work and how they got there.

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*(Continued on Page 27)*



**Visiting Professionals Visits to NC State and Wake Tech**  
(Continued from Page 26)



Josh Hanks

Environmental Geologist at NCDEQ

Meredith Ambrose  
Engineering Geologist at F&R



John Sherill

Environmental Geologist at SynTerra

## Visiting Professionals Visits to NC State and Wake Tech

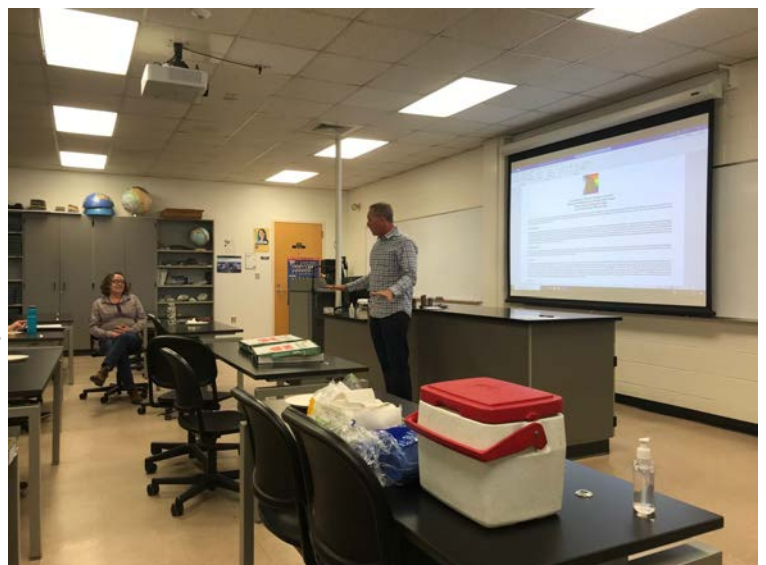
(Continued from Page 27)

Our presenters at Wake Tech were engineering geologist Dana Goodnight of Falcon Engineering, environmental geologist Emily Hermann with S&ME, and me, sort of representing the public sector since I now work in the Brownfields Redevelopment Section of NCDEQ as a part-time temp. Attending our presentations were about a dozen students and geology professor Gretchen Miller. We brought along three pizzas (but I forgot to ask Emily to also bring the soft drinks) since our presentation was late Friday afternoon. As they were at NC State, the students listened closely to what we said.



Dana Goodnight  
Engineering Geologist at Falcon  
Engineering

Dana Goodnight  
Gretchen Miller, Associate Professor



(Continued on Page 27)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2024

### Geological Events in the Carolinas

Courtesy of AEG Carolinas Chapter—[www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org). Last updated March 24, 2024

Send updates/corrections to Rick Kolb, [rick.kolb1@gmail.com](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail.com)

**Meeting Date, Time, and Location are Subject to Change—Please Verify Prior to the Meeting**

#### Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024

**Event:** David N. Snipes Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium

**Location:** Madren Conference Center, Clemson University

**Field Courses:** March 27 and 29

**Details:** <https://www.clemson.edu/cecas/departments/ees/symposium/index.html>

#### Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024

**Event:** Exploring the Colon Cross-Structure Field Course

**Location:** Starts at the trailhead for a portion of the Deep River Trail system in the parking lot for the Moncure Community Health Center in Moncure

**Cost:** \$20 for AEG Members and Teacher Members, \$30 for non-members, free for AEG Student Members

**Details:** The field course will visit two locations detailed in the 2023 Carolina Geological Society Field Course guidebook – Stops 8 and 9. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the stops (we encourage car-pooling) and for their own lunch. The morning geological hike will be to an abandoned quarry within the Colon Cross-Structure. The afternoon stop will visit an outcrop of Triassic-aged conglomerate along the shore of Jordan Lake.

**CE credits:** 6 hours

**Registration:** At [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org)

#### Date: April 9 and 10, 2024

**Event:** 2024 Annual Technical Forum on Geohazards Impacting Transportation in Appalachia

**Location:** Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center; Rockbridge County, Virginia

**Field Course:** April 11

**Details:** <https://www.jmu.edu/geology/cegga/forum.shtml>

#### Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

**Event:** AEG Carolinas Chapter Meeting

**Location:** The patio at Clouds Brewing, 126 N. West Street in Raleigh

**Cost:** \$35 for AEG and ASCE members, \$50 for non-members, \$20 for public-sector employees and teachers; **free** for students w/ ID. **Registration will be \$5 more at the door.**

**Details:** 5:30-7:00 socializing, 7:00-8:00 buffet dinner; 8:00-9:00 speaker

**Presentation:** What's the Big Deal with Small Plastic?

**Speaker:** Kim Nimmer, Senior Policy Analyst, City of Raleigh, and co-leader of a group on ITRC's Contaminants of Emerging Concern Team

#### Date: April 15-16, 2024

**Event:** Geological Society of American Southeastern Section Annual Meeting

**Location:** Asheville Renaissance Hotel; Asheville, North Carolina

**Details:** [https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section\\_Meetings/GSA/Sections/se/2024mtg/home.aspx](https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/se/2024mtg/home.aspx)

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(Continued on Page 30)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2024 (continued from page 29)

**Date: September 10-14, 2024**

**Event:** AEG 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: The Geology of the Crossroads

**Location:** Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Details:** <https://www.aegannualmeeting.org>

**Date: September 22-25, 2024**

**Event:** Geological Society of American Annual Meeting: Water in Our Changing World/Life Along an Active Margin

**Location:** Anaheim, California

**Details:** <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2024/home>

**Date: Friday, October 4, 2024**

**Event:** ASBOG FG and PG Exams

**Location:** The Prometric Testing Centers in North and South Carolina

**Contact:** [www.ncblg.org](http://www.ncblg.org) and <https://llr.sc.gov/geo/>

**Date: September 22-26, 2025**

**Event:** AEG 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Westin Chicago River North; Chicago, Illinois

**Date: September 2026**

**Event:** AEG 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Hotel TBD; Chattanooga, Tennessee



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We offer several levels of sponsorship, but they all have one goal: to keep the sponsor's name in front of our members and to bring business to your company. Most of our members are practicing professionals with responsibility for selecting subcontractors, so our group is a great place to find new customers and to catch up with existing clients in an informal setting.

Our sponsors provide the financial support that allows us to have reasonably priced dinner meetings, host seminars, provide discounted dinner meeting costs for students and teachers, underwrite the cost of newsletters and our web site, provide geoscience mentors for students and young professionals, and support science education tools to our teachers and in our schools. All costs listed below are per year and end in December. New sponsorships received after October will continue to December of the following year.

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